

## ON THE HOME STAGE

What the Play Bills Promise This Week.

## ROBIN HOOD TO COME NEXT

The News of the Stage and Players in Bright and Spicy Paragraphs. Minor Attractions.

"Robin Hood" will be reproduced at the Powers' Grand Monday and Tuesday evenings, December 5 and 6. It has been alleged that advanced education and research have disintegrated many of the past. Some people say that Pocahontas never saved the life of Captain Smith; that William Tell was a myth and that Robin Hood never shot the king's deer in Sherwood Forest. However, it is true that in the memory of every man and woman Pocahontas can be seen leaning over Smith to ward off the raised club; William Tell can be seen hitting at the apple on his son's head and Robin Hood with his stout bow of yew can be seen shooting across the green sward. All these legends "Robin Hood" is, perhaps, the most popular. It has been sung by poets for centuries; has been told in every nursery and lately been put in opera, and by popular acclamation is declared to be the greatest light opera of the decade. In England and in this country the opera of "Robin Hood" has been received with a storm of public approval, and it is to be heard here by the Robin Hood Opera company. Strict attention to detail in production has done much toward making this opera a success.

Sherwood Forest is produced again upon the stage. "Will Scarlett" shows again his brawny strength, "Little John" dressed in his Lincoln green, sings his merry songs of "Brown October Ale," "Friar Tuck" cracks his jokes; the "Sheriff of Nottingham" schemes and plots, and "Robin Hood" leads them all, and loves "Maid Marian," and she, like all sensible girls, reciprocates.

Thousands and thousands of people have applauded to the echo, and when it is heard here, it is safe to say, that the people of Grand Rapids will prove no exception to the rule. From beginning to end there is not a dull moment in the opera, it is simply filled with solos, duets, trios, quartets and grand choruses. Its rare humor keeps the audience in a continuous uproar. The "Sheriff of Nottingham" is hated for his treachery, and laughter at his droolery; "Robin Hood" is admired for his daring, as were his merry men. Maid Marian has the sympathy of the audience for her struggle against fearful odds, to gain the hand of the man she loves. This is but a glimpse of the Robin Hood opera, told in music and libretto, and is one of the sweetest ever presented.

## New Postmaster at the Grand.

Such is the title of the play which will open at this popular theater tonight, which seems to be picked by all people regardless of party affiliation. It is a sensational melodrama and is full of those elements of stage and scene arrangement which give intensity to the action and hold in tension the nerve and sympathies of an audience. The play is from the pen of Walter H. Robinson, author of "Kiljarny," "Partners for Life" and the comedy drama, "The Banker," which is attracting so much attention in New York at present. It is claimed that Mr. Robinson, who is starring in this piece, has straddled himself with a company of actors, and has made adaptation of all of the characters in the piece. For the scenic and mechanical environments a carload of scenery is carried. The action of the play is laid within the period of the memorable gold fever of '49 in the "glorious climate" of the Yukon. One of the effective scenes illustrates the operation of a mine with quartz being crushed by a machine. The company will be at the Grand all of the week, with matinees as usual Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## New Specialties at Smith's.

A number of new vaudeville artists have been secured for Smith's theater this week. The three Mellette brothers in posturing, head-to-head balancing, somersaults, and general acrobatic work, Gata Dayton, song and dance artist, La Holmes, black-face comedian, the terpsichorean artist, Minnie Dore, Jackson and Boshwell in a sketch, "A Night Out," Moss, Albert, equibrist, and Chapman and Quigley in topical songs and dances. There will also appear in specialties the favorites of the stock, the "Nine Days After Date" from January until February. David Balasco has written, in collaboration with another, the drama for the opening of the New York Empire theater. Henry C. DeMille is engaged on a play of southern life. A. R. Haven has been secured for the production of a play called "An American," in which Abraham Lincoln is the principal character and in which Mr. Russell will take the role of attempting to portray the character of Lincoln in scenes beginning with the splitting of the log in the White House. Augustus Thorne, who bought the English rights in "The Children of Walin," by Ernst von Wolzenburg, but the sudden change of policy at Daly's will put the use of an adaptation of this work far into the future, probably.

## With the Playwrights.

The American dramatists of high repute are not idle, says the New York Sun. William Gillette, whose ill health retarded his work, desirably, has had to postpone the production of his "Ninety Days After Date" from January until February. David Balasco has written, in collaboration with another, the drama for the opening of the New York Empire theater. Henry C. DeMille is engaged on a play of southern life. A. R. Haven has been secured for the production of a play called "An American," in which Abraham Lincoln is the principal character and in which Mr. Russell will take the role of attempting to portray the character of Lincoln in scenes beginning with the splitting of the log in the White House. Augustus Thorne, who bought the English rights in "The Children of Walin," by Ernst von Wolzenburg, but the sudden change of policy at Daly's will put the use of an adaptation of this work far into the future, probably.

"The Stormy Petrel," acted in Brooklyn by Annie Puley and her company, yielded the main numerous and slightly pathetic role of a fisherman's sprightly daughter for Miss Kiley. The author was Stanley Wood, and he had accomplished hardly anything further than to write a serviceable part for the actress. Alexander Salvini, an ambitious and growingly worthy son of the great Italian tragedian, gave a trial in San Francisco to "L'Ami Fritz," a dramatization of the familiar story by Eckmann and Chabrian, and the local comment indicates that Salvini gained a convincing and engaging character in the piece. "Lady Blarney," an annoy-

## HERE IS YOUR NAME

The Sunday Grist of Society News.

## TWO PRETTY SELECT PARTIES

Given by Leading Society Girls—Weddings and Receptions—Where All Our Friends are at This Week.

Careful observers still maintain that the social season in this city is destined to be unusually brilliant this year. And this prediction may be maintained, notwithstanding the scarcity of young women, as compared with the season past. For it is an undeniable fact that very many of the young society debutants, who assist so materially in making social events truly pleasurable, are missing. While the town can still claim all of them as its own dear girls, still they are not within its borders this winter. Most of them are away at school, a few of them are seeing the sights of Europe, while many are away on lengthy visits. It is well that we may enjoy the society of so many, or we could not spare those that are gone.

The young Miss, just introduced into the social world, at once becomes one of its brightest attractions, and without her it becomes lonesome. But we have many of them left, and lovely ones at that.

The St. Cecilia society can claim the greatest honors this season. A large majority of the affairs given, and to be given, have been planned and made successful by its energetic members. Its Thanksgiving ball, for instance, was a delightful party. The assembly was a congenial one, and the music was good. It was a fact to be deplored, that this party seemed to have been given on the same evening that Thomas and his peerless orchestra appeared at Powers' opera house. The St. Cecilia society exists for the purpose of furthering musical education and so, possibly, if the Thomas orchestra engagement had been postponed, and as a consequence, a larger audience would have listened to the concert.

Speaking of the Thomas concert, a more finished performance of this character was never before given in this city. Mr. Thomas is beginning to betray age in his features, but his leadership is just as perfect as ever. The rendition of the Wagner number and the Largo of Handel might well be called perfection. In the latter Mr. Max Bendix, for years Mr. Thomas' "first violin," has been doing his best to throw his whole soul into most exquisite musical sympathy. Grand Rapids is getting to love Wagner music and this is encouraging.

Local Bon Ton Entertains a Guest With Music and Dancing.

Miss Preusser's party has been the talk of younger society for the past week, and a worthier subject of its kind could not well claim the tongues of society people. As has been heretofore announced, this affair was given in honor of Miss Peyton of Liverpool, England, who is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hodenpy of Fulton street. The Preusser mansion was decorated until it appeared a perfect bower of beauty. Three large rooms were canvassed for dancing, while a large reserved room in which were served food and drink, was opened to the guests. In this reserved room a novel effect had been produced by the draping of alternate red and white streamers from the center of the ceiling to all sides of the apartment. The mantels and hearths throughout the house were banked half way to the ceiling with palms and other growing plants. Those who received were Miss Preusser, Miss Peyton, Dr. Fred Temple and A. Preusser. Braun's orchestra furnished music and the dancing was not concluded until 2 o'clock in the morning.

Among the guests were the following: Messrs. and Mesdames A. G. Hodenpy, John B. More, William B. Butts, George E. Raymond, A. B. Porter, Walter H. Hughes, John H. P. Hughart, W. O. Hughart, Jr., Charles R. Blair, H. D. Walbridge, Frank D. Forbush, Mrs. Palmer.

Messrs. John McQueen, Robert A. Howard, John A. Corvode, Roy Grunwald, Frank Marshall, John A. Seymour, W. S. McCoy, Dr. Richard Smith, Fred R. Deane, Charles Fox, Marston Nelson, Will P. Granger, Lucius Torrey and Dr. R. D. Freeman.

Messrs. Carpenter, Thompson, Eaton, Moore, Shepard, Corvode, Hume, Freeman, Porter, McQueen, Cummings of Wheeling, W. Va., Daniels, Smith and Jenks.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL.

Miss Herker Entertains Her Friends With Horrible Witches.

Miss Bessie Herker of No. 64 State street entertained her friends last Tuesday evening in a manner as enjoyable as it was novel. It was a witch and wizard party, admirably planned and conducted. The rooms were draped in black, and the hangings were profusely decorated with stars, moons, bats, owls, cats and every other symbol of the land of witches. The guests presented themselves in black dominoes and cone-shaped hats the supposed proper costume of such characters. They were received by the hostess in front of her tent, which had been pitched in the drawing room, and suitably adorned with skulls, etc. The rooms were semilighted by illuminations of a greenish cast which heightened the spectral effect of the decorations.

In the library stood a cauldron of steaming broth, from which the guests were served by three sister witches, who, as they passed the cups, pronounced cabalistic incantations, calculated to strike terror to the consumer of the delicious boudin which the kettle contained.

Miss Herker performed the witch's dance to an accompaniment of weird music on the piano by Prof. Wellenstein. At the conclusion of the first number of dancing, the black gowns were removed, the lights turned on, and all were revealed in full evening dress. When the guests reluctantly departed, all voted the witchery of the witches a success.

Kelsey-Miller.

The Rev. Henry H. Kelsey of Hartford, Conn., and Miss Alice W. Miller,

daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Gaylord R. Miller of this city, were quietly married at the home of the bride's parents on John street last Tuesday evening at 11 o'clock. The ceremony was a quiet one, and at 12:30 the couple took the train for Hartford, where they will be at home to their friends. The groom is pastor of the Fourth street Congregational church of Hartford, the pulpit of which was formerly occupied by the celebrated Graham Taylor. It is famous as the church of the working people, and Dr. Kelsey preaches to vast audiences every Sunday. He was a classmate, at Amherst college, with Mr. McGovern Brundy of this city. The bride is well known here, but of late years has made her home principally at Providence, R. I.

Married in Church.

About 300 people gathered in the parlors of the Fountain Street Baptist church Wednesday evening to witness the marriage of Miss Rose M. Gray and Fred J. Withall. The bride was attired in a costume of cream India silk, trimmed in silk lace illusion. The maid of honor, Miss Margaret Firth, wore a pretty costume of cream costume and more silk. Thomas Gray, brother of the bride, was best man and the bridesmaids were Miss Agnes Gray, Miss Amy Firth, Miss Grace Campbell and Miss Brooks. After the wedding a reception was given at the home of the happy couple, No. 134 Thomas street.

## South End Literary Club.

Last Tuesday afternoon was entertainment day of the South End Ladies' Literary club. The Spanish Student was very successfully presented in pantomime and tableaux, the story being related by Mrs. Frances Compston. Mrs. Lovejoy's orchestra furnished music. The characters were taken as follows: Victoria, Elie Van Valkenburg; Preciosa, Mrs. Otte; Hypolito, Mrs. D. L. Campan; Count of Lara, Mrs. Crippen; Don Carlos, Mrs. Powell; Cardinal, Mrs. Simmons; Beltrán Cruzado, Mrs. Haberborn; Francisco, Miss Thompson; Missa, Mrs. Barnes; Angelica, Mrs. Walker.

## Went to Caledonia.

The Bright Light Social club of this city gave a most pleasant party at Caledonia Thanksgiving eve. Among those in attendance were Messrs. Charles Brewer, William Stang, Frank Miner, Walter Leppinski, R. R. Flynn, B. J. Squires, J. J. Fallon and C. D. Morton, Misses Nina Smith, Dora White, Bessie Peterson, Lillian Watalswick, Pearl Poltom, Jennie Lajure, Helen Leppinski and Agnes Stiles. The club will give their first party next Wednesday evening at the home of Miss Pearl Poltom.

## Mrs. Stevens Pedro.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Mrs. R. H. Stevens gave a most pleasant party at her residence on South Union street, in honor of her guest, Mrs. Farrell. On Tuesday evening about seventy persons were present, and on Wednesday about one hundred. Prizes were awarded on both evenings to the persons winning the greatest number of games. Mrs. Farrell returned yesterday to her home in Cincinnati.

## Williams-Wetzell.

Arthur B. Williams and Miss Jenny Wetzell, daughter of Daniel M. Wetzell, the lumberman, were married at the home of the bride's parents, No. 59 Packard street, on Thanksgiving day. Dr. Sanford H. Cobb performed the ceremony in the presence of about sixty guests. The couple are spending their honeymoon in the east. They will be at home at No. 14 South Prospect street after December 3.

## West Hill L. C.

The committee on history and literature furnished the program. It opened with a duet, "Come Gently, Come Gently," followed by an article on the causes of the revolutionary war and how they saved St. Michael was recited, followed by a guitar solo. The women have decided to take up the parliamentary drill. The program closed with Longfellow's poem, "The Rainy Day," arranged for the piano.

## Will Wear Calico.

It is expected that the "Calico ball," to be given for the benefit of the Children's home, in the Blodgett block next Thursday evening, will draw a large crowd. Everybody attending is expected to wear calico about some conspicuous part of his or her person. The details of the affair will be unique and cannot fail to make it attractive. Tickets will be sold for \$1.

## Miss Shepard's "Coming Out."

Miss Helen A. Shepard and Miss Shepard will receive at their residence on South Lafayette street, next Wednesday afternoon, from 2 to 4 o'clock. This will be the long anticipated "coming out" reception of one of Grand Rapids' young and most fascinating belles. Of course it will be attended by all of the society leaders of the city.

## Bicycle Club Pleasantly.

The Grand Rapids Bicycle club will give a "North provoking auction sale" at its club rooms in the Hartman block Thursday evening. Every member is to bring some article done up in a package. The packages will be auctioned off and the purchaser must open them before the audience.

## At Mrs. Stevens' New Home.

Mrs. R. Humphrey Stevens opened her new home at the corner of Burton avenue and South Division street to her friends last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Some 300 invitations were sent out, and both evenings were delightfully spent with cards and other quiet amusements.

## Token of Regard.

A number of the ladies of A. B. Watson & Co. paid Mrs. Brooks of Bensonville a visit Saturday. The president, Mrs. Virgil, in a neat little speech presented Mrs. Brooks with a beautiful dress pattern as a token of regard from the corps.

## Dancing at the Warwick.

On Monday evening, December 5, St. Cecilia "Twenty Nine" will give a dancing and card party at the Warwick. Braun's orchestra will furnish music, and the proceeds, of course, will go to the building fund.

## At Mrs. Folmer's Residence.

Mrs. C. Carroll Folmer and Mrs. Harry C. Angell will tender an afternoon reception to their friends next Thursday from 4 to 5. The affair will take place at the residence of Mrs. Folmer on South Union street.

## Pleasant Pedro Party.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Campan gave a party at their home on Kellogg street Tuesday, November 22. (Continued on Tenth Page.)

## THEY LEAD 'EM ALL

The Grand Rapids Independent Athletic Club

## COMPOSED OF MUSCULAR MEN

Many of Whom Have Won Fame and Bread as "Profess"—Grand Rapids Men Who Are Stars.

A look into the gymnasium of the Independent Athletic club on any night in the week will show you fifteen or twenty young men in the best possible physical condition, some tumbling, some practicing on horizontal bars, or exercising their muscles, as may best suit their own fancy. Nearly every one of the members has some specialty in the way of athletic or gymnastic "act."

The Grand Rapids Independent Athletic club was organized November 1, 1887, with sixteen charter members, and its growth has been steady and permanent. Then it occupied rooms on the fourth floor of the Pike block, on Pearl street. In 1889 the club outgrew its accommodations there, and welcomed 1890 at new quarters, in the Avery block on Waterloo street. In September of the same year it was incorporated as an athletic association. After remaining in the Avery block for one year and eight months a larger and better hall was found to be necessary, and the Metropolitan hall on Pearl street was secured and fitted up as a complete gymnasium.

## Reno and Reno "Go Out."

The first to "take the road" were Eddie Smith and George Cobb, the contortionists. They played separately with minor circuses for about two years, when they doubled, and under the team name of Reno and Reno, they performed the wonderful feat in every state and territory west of the Mississippi river. Three years of this time was spent with Sells Bros. They also played in the leading vaudeville theaters in the country. The team broke up in 1890 and Smith returned to the city, Cobb taking another partner and still working under the Reno and Reno title. The team is now in Australia, where they went with Sells Bros. Before returning home they will visit England.

Henry Nagle, the acrobatic leaper, tumbler and perch artist, also started out the same time as Reno and Reno, and with George Zarelli, has traveled under the name of Zarelli Bros. They accompanied Sells' circus to Australia, but played in this country last season. Nagle returned to this city last Sunday and will remain here all winter.

Among other well-known professionals the club has connected are the Leander Bros., acrobats and head balancers, who are now doing their second season with Schilling's minstrels; Eddie Estus, the hand balancer, is now with Gorman Bros. minstrels; Chester Lamphere, known as LaVerne, the juggler, the club has paying vaudeville theaters; the Granillo Bros., horizontal bar artists and acrobats Ernest Landauer and Eddie Smith, under the name of the "Four Imperials," played the last season in vaudeville theaters, doing their Chinese truck house act.

## Their Muscles Are Bread Winners.

Resident J. J. Deane, known as Jo Garneil, horizontal bar artist, leaper and tumbler, now with Gollner Bros. circus; William Treadwell and Orrin Krugger, heavy weight lifters, with Washburne's circus; Henry Beckman, club swinger and Mexican perch artist, now with Dan Costello's circus; Otto Practorius, contortionist, who left Friday to play the Eden Music circuit; J. McCarly, known as La Rone, contortionist, now with the Gregory "New Sensation" company, and J. W. Marshall, perch artist, now playing dates in Chicago, are all members of this club.

Those who have never taken the road have kept up the reputation of the club in the state.

At the tournament at Marshall last June, which was open to the state, the club practically won everything. John J. Fallon, the clever light weight sparrer and wrestler, won first prize for light weight sparring, and second in light weight wrestling. The same place, M. J. Dwyer won first prize for middle weight wrestling, first for putting the sixteen pound shot, first in running broad jump, and second in middle weight sparring; Bunk Treadwell won first in heavy weight wrestling, and Otto Krugger second in throwing the sixteen pound hammer.

Chris Christopher, the plucky middleweight sparrer, who is "in it for dough," is also a member of the club; so are Tom O'Donnell, champion heavyweight sparrer of Michigan, and Johnnie R. Ache, champion feather weight of the northwest. Phil K. Smith, champion grapple-roman wrestler of Michigan and heavy weight lifter, is also a I. A. C. man.

## Budding Talent.

Aside from these men Andrew Sloodmaber, aerial artist; the Granillo brothers, triple horizontal bar artists; Meer and May, who do a double trap-act; James Fortner, on the flying rings; Fallon and Sloodmaber, with their revolving ladder; John R. Anderson, the "iron jaw" man; Axel Liljeström, a Swedish heavy weight lifter, and Guy Nienhardt, Robert McDonald, Frank Lyne, Al Andersen, John Fleune and Charles Gallinger, contortionists, all to keep in the record of the club, whose reputation is spreading far and wide. Its offices are frequently in receipt of letters from managers who want talent; all naturally look to the Independent Athletic club for it, as they have furnished so much already.

The club's rooms are nicely furnished, pictures adorn the walls and a piano rounds off the whole thing. A fine quartet, composed of A. Aertken, Paul Rademaker, H. Burnett and George Sonke, has been formed from the club, and their music helps to make the pleasant hours fly faster, but longer in memory.

## Better Late Than Never!

"Don't put off until tomorrow what can and should be done today," is wise. If you have never used Zoro-dont for your teeth, make a bee line to the drugstore and get a bottle and begin to use it at once. —Vern, ap.

## WE CATER FOR ALL

Who desire the best fabrics.

## SPRING &amp; COMPANY.

## We Always

Give the best value for the money.

## Spring &amp; Company.

We believe that people generally comprehend our advertising.

The question arises: "Why didn't you tell us of these in the papers?" We give much good store news, but we can't tell all. This store is full—crowded with news all the time, and to print all there is to tell would be a physical impossibility. Therefore you must

Visit Spring & Company's

Often or occasionally get left.

The great space now utilized by us for a single branch of trade, viz: Cloaks, would seem extravagant were you to visit the store after hours, but should you join the throng of ladies that attend our immense Cloak rooms every day you will wonder how we ever managed with less.

Wash Flannels

Are to the front again—couldn't crowd so good a stuff one side for long. Pretty, serviceable, and then the shrinking feature. They'll be more favorites than ever.

East main aisle, front.

Wool Dress Goods.

The week opens with an assembly of bargains caught from trade currents. The best bargain chances come to the largest merchants. That's one reason why our stock is always the best and greatest. These items are worth study—first in the papers, second at the counter.

1 lot wool suitings 38c.

45 pieces Broadcloth, new and desirable shades, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50.

55 Pattern Suits, good style, good goods, for about half their value. Price \$1.00, \$5.50, \$6.75, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$9.25.

Fur Wraps and Cloaks.

Gems of the tailors' art. "Artists' proofs" you will say. They have been chosen from the best in the world.

Not the provincial products of a single factory, but the best or the most cosmopolitan are on our counters, and thus we offer you the richest results of taste in ladies' tailoring.

We think we know the Cloak market and our opinion is that equal variety and corresponding elegance will not greet you in any other stock. That's our opinion. Do you want a Wrap, a Cape or Cloak?

Spring & Company's Cloak Department, 250 feet from main entrance.

Take main right side.

SPRING & COMPANY.

## Down Comfortables

Are down in price. Clean and odorless, will not shed the down, covers of beautiful patterns, some figured, some plain. Less pretensions are those at 75 cents, \$1.00, \$1.25 and upwards, but there's intrinsic value and luxurious comfort in every one of them.

Woolen Blankets.

Through the alertness and expertness of our New York resident buyer, we shall offer this week about 1,000 pairs of excellent, some very fine, white wool blankets, at prices that are several

notches below retail values:

Wool Blankets at 75c a pair

Wool Blankets at \$1.00 a pair

Wool Blankets at 1.25 a pair

Wool Blankets at 1.50 a pair

Wool Blankets at 1.75 a pair

Wool Blankets at 2.00 a pair

Wool Blankets at 2.25 a pair

Full range of sizes and prices up to \$25 per pair.

Kid Gloves.

The completeness of our Glove stock is often commented on by purchasers. If you want to rest your eyes upon the several Paris fashion leaders, the store of

Spring & Company

Should be your objective point.

Glove counter, front, right of main entrance.

Spring & Company

Make more remnants than any house in business here; it's cutting of hundreds of dress patterns from cords of dress stuffs every day. If all ladies required the same number of yards, we'd not have a short piece left.

These fragments of trade will be found on the Remnant Counter.

Center west main aisle.

Underwear Talk.

But few stores in the west have the grit to handle a stock of ladies' misses' and children's underwear equal to ours, and but very few require it. The current of trade drifts into the whirlpool at

Spring & Company's.

And grand bargains daily to the experience of all. Varieties and qualities unlimited. Ask to see the celebrated Ypsilanti Underwear for which we are the only and exclusive agents here.

Left of west main aisle, front.

Give us intelligent criticism and we will risk the result, for we allow no competitors to give you a greater equivalent for your money.

